

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A flavor deterioration inhibitor or an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product, which comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar organic solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

2. (Currently Amended) A flavor deterioration inhibitor, which comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

3. (Currently Amended) An oral composition wherein a flavor deterioration inhibitor is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said flavor deterioration inhibitor comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado,

common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting flavor deterioration of an oral composition, which comprises adding a flavor deterioration inhibitor to said oral composition in amount between about 1-500 ppm, said flavor deterioration inhibitor comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

5. (Currently Amended) A flavor wherein a flavor deterioration inhibitor is added in an amount between about 0.005-5 % by weight, said flavor deterioration inhibitor comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting deterioration of a flavor, which comprises adding a flavor deterioration inhibitor to said flavor in an amount between about 0.005-5 % by weight, said flavor deterioration inhibitor comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with water, a polar solvent or a mixture thereof; provided that there is excluded an inhibitor for the quality deterioration of a coffee liquid extract comprising an extract of semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves.

7. (Currently amended) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product, which comprises an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof.

8. (Original) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 7 wherein deterioration smell is caused by p-cresol or p-methylacetophenone.

9. (Previously presented) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 7, wherein said citral-containing product is a citrus-series flavor or citrus-series fragrance.

10. (Previously presented) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 7, wherein said citral-containing product is a citrus-series drink or citrus-series confectionery.

11. (Previously presented) An inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell of a citral-containing product as claimed in claim 7, wherein said citral-containing product is fragrances and cosmetics.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting the generation of deterioration smell of citral or a citral-containing product wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) A citral or citral-containing product wherein an inhibitor for the generation of deterioration smell is added in an amount between about 1-500 ppm, said inhibitor comprising an extract obtained by extracting Ashitaba ashitaba, avocado, common plantain, oriental senna, hawthorn, semi-fermented tea leaves or fermented tea leaves with a polar organic solvent, water or a mixture thereof.